



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

September 27, 2010

Bill Van Hoesen, Department of the Army
Directorate of Public Works, IMWE-LEW-PWE
Building 2012, Liggett Avenue
Box 339500 MS 17
Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington 98433-9500

Re: Comments on the final EIS for the Fort Lewis Army Growth and Force
Structure Realignment Project. EPA Project Number: 09-055-USA.

Dear Mr. Hoesen:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the Clean Air Act (CAA) §309 and the National Environmental Act (NEPA), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the US Army (USA) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the proposed Fort Lewis Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment Project (CEQ# 20100340) in Kittitas, Pierce, Thurston and Yakima Counties, WA.

In our comments on the draft EIS, EPA expressed environmental concerns about water quality, biological resources, noise and human health impacts. We recommended that the FEIS identify and discuss measures to be taken to avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts to those resources. Also, we encouraged the Army to coordinate with other agencies engaged in ecosystem restoration activities in and around the project area as this action is implemented.

The FEIS was responsive to our concerns on the draft EIS. In particular, we appreciate additional clarifying information on measures that would be taken to protect soils and prevent water quality degradation in affected water bodies. In addition, the FEIS includes a copy of the final Biological Assessment (BA) for the project and Army commitments to incorporate results of ongoing consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, and more inspection and monitoring requirements in the Record of Decision (ROD) for the project. Also, we are pleased that the Army made additional changes to the FEIS based on other agencies' and public's comments. Your responses address our concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the FEIS. If you have any question about the above comments, please contact Theo Mbabaliye of my staff at (206) 553-6322 or mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Christine B. Reichgott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" and last name "Reichgott" clearly legible.

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit

